

IOWA BIRD LIFE



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CONTENTS

SECRET OF THE ELMS	91-92
FOUR LONGSPURS FOR 1973	92-93
GOOSELAKE ADVENTURE	93-95
BIRDING AREAS OF IOWA	95-100
FIELD REPORTS	100-104
GENERAL NOTES	104-108
BOOK REVIEWS	108-112
SPRING MEETING	112
DUES NOTICE	112

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The Secret of the Elms

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OSKALOOSA

An article in *American Birds*, August, 1973, by Al Maley stated that he believed that owl numbers are determined largely by the availability of old hawk or crow nests in his state of Michigan. Thus he erected artificial nests in suitable sites, hoping to attract a nesting owl. I talked this project over with Keith Layton and we decided to give it a try. Little did we realize the adventure ahead of us.

February 4th we headed for William Penn Woods, a fifty-five acre tract on the north edge of Oskaloosa owned by the same college. Loaded with ladder, twine and hardware cloth, we started searching for a suitable tree. Evergreens were supposed to be best, but there are none in Penn Woods. After much searching, a dead elm tree caught our eye. It had broken off about twenty-five feet above the ground, with two main limbs forming a good crotch. Lacking anything better, we decided to try this one. Up the ladder I went to check it out. Half way up we heard the sound of muffled wings. A Great Horned Owl had flown out of the top of the tree! I got down and we extended the ladder to twenty-five feet and up went Keith. Reaching the top, he peered over into a hollow and exclaimed, "Two owl eggs, how about that!"

Starting on a schedule of checking the nest once a week, we proceeded to check it on February 11th, 18th, and the 25th, the last time taking pictures of the eggs and nest. The eggs seem to be perfectly round, and rested on only a few wood chips. There appeared to be no nest construction at all. The nesting owl would leave the nest when we arrived at the tree and many times we would see the mate.

We checked again on March 3rd, expecting hatching any anytime. March 12th was the big day, for we found two owlets approximately four days old. This time the male and female owl closed to one hundred feet, hooting and snapping their beaks. This was to be the closest they ever approached. It was a sight Keith and I will never forget. On March 18th we found that our owls had doubled in size. It was obvious why, for there was a half eaten rabbit in the nest. We saw the adults in the distance, keeping their eyes on us.

On March 24th we set off to band the owlets. There were eight of us on this trip, Keith and Irene Layton, Beryl and Patricia Layton and family, and my wife Valerie. Keith lowered the owls in a bucket and the Laytons banded their first Great Horned Owls. The adults were close by but did not approach, probably because of so many people, but Keith and I like to think because they knew we meant them no harm.

On March 31st we checked the owls again and they were doing fine. This time there was a partial Red-winged Blackbird and female pheasant in the nest.

On April 7th we set off with our boys, Chris and Jason, ages six and three. We got the owls down to check their bands and to show the kids. It was really a treat for the kids and we got some fine pictures. The owlets were really growing, looking more like the adults everyday. The nest contained the remains of a Cardinal, Flicker and rabbit. What an appetite the young owls must have. Keith and I had often discussed the possibility of there being more nesting owls in the woods, but we thought it unlikely. Anyway, I still like to "pop trees," hitting the base of dead

trees hoping to scare up another owl. On this day I hit the jackpot, for popping a tree on our way out of the woods scared up an owl a hundred yards away across a clearing. We had never checked this tree because it was so in the open. Could this be another nest? We soon had the ladder there and up I went and sure enough, two more baby Great Horned, appearing to be a few days younger than our other owls. Irene was soon back with their bands and Laytons banded their second pair of Great Horned. These owls had plenty to eat too, for in the nest were the remains of a rabbit, gopher and rat.

We set off on April 15th again, this time with two nests to check. At the first nest the young owls peered over the edge of the nest looking at us. They were still healthy and at the second nest all was okay too. In the second nest were the remains of three Red-winged Blackbirds.

On April 22 we went knowing that our owls could be gone at anytime. Both pairs were still in the nest, but we could see they were outgrowing their happy home. They now looked like miniature Great Horned.

April 29th was the day, for our owls were gone. Both nests had fledged their young. It had been eighty-four days since we had found the first nest. We left the woods with mixed emotions, happy to see the nest successful and yet sad, knowing we would probably never see our owls again. Walking we reflected on nature's ways, for here five years ago stood mighty elms, today reduced to a mere fraction of what they were, having been struck by Dutch elm disease. A disaster for the elm trees and yet a blessing for the owls, providing a natural nesting site. Both nests were about twenty-five feet above the ground, providing plenty of protection from predators. It also appeared that the nests did not interfere with each other, even though they were only thirteen hundred feet apart, for there appeared to be plenty of food for the owls. There are also many more trees in the woods that are similar to these and could provide nesting sites in later years. What Keith and I had set out to do nature had done better. These thoughts soon left our minds, for at the edge of the woods we came upon a pair of Barred Owls. Perhaps a new adventure was going to take place.

Four Different Longspurs for the Year 1973

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Lamoni

It is not often one can even add one longspur to a year's list, let alone add four different species in the same year.

In June, 1973, we attended the first convention of the American Birding Association at Kenmare, North Dakota. Over two hundred birders had come from all over the United States for the three day convention. The purpose of the organization has been to show one birds, and birds they had! We were transported in six school buses called "The Honkers." One place where we stopped was marked on our map "The Longspur Pasture." This was the place where we were supposed to see the Chestnut-collared Longspur. The only birds I seemed to be getting in my binoculars or scope were Grasshopper Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows. Once my scope spotted a bird perched on a weed. He was throwing back his head and giving three musical zips and ending with a trill on a lower pitch. I discovered it was a Baird's Sparrow, one bird that many at the convention had come to Kenmare to see. I added it to my life list, but I wanted a Chestnut-collared Longspur!

The group had advanced far ahead of me, but a man came along and told me he had found a nest of the Chestnut-collared Longspur. He had failed to mark the place and could not locate it again. We must have been near the nest, for all of a sudden I saw two birds alight on the grass. I hurriedly turned my scope on them and there they were -- the male and female Chestnut-collared Longspurs! A new one for my life list.

On Sunday, June 17, our buses stopped at a place where there was a dirt field. Five scouts, including Chandler Robbins, author of the bird book *Birds of North America*, climbed over the fence to see if they could locate the Mc Cown's Longspur. When they held up their hands, it was a signal that they had sighted them.

A big truck came along the highway, stopped and asked my husband what on earth was going on. Birders with birding equipment were lined up along the fence line ready to jump over the fence as soon as they were given the signal by the scouts. My husband answered him, "They are birders. They are called bird watchers. They have come from all over the United States to a convention. They will be going over that fence any minute now as soon as they get the signal from those scouts you see in that field." The farmer exclaimed, "Well, what do you know? I've never seen anything like that before!"

And over the fence we all did go! Again I got left behind, but as Ruth Phipps and I were standing there wondering where the longspurs were, two Mc Cown's Longspurs alighted on a clod right in front of us. All we needed this time to see them was our binoculars. The rusty bend of the wing showed perfectly and the gray hind neck could plainly be seen. When they took flight, we noticed the narrow median band and the terminal band in the shape of the letter T. This was not the first time for this longspur, for I had seen the Mc Cown's on nesting grounds of the Colorado State University's Experimental Farm near Nunn, Colorado.

On September 13, 1973, we made a journey to Duluth, Minnesota, to attend the annual Inland Bird Banding Association convention. It was held at St. Scholastica College in Duluth.

The Sunday field trip turned out to be wet and cold with a light rain falling. Even so, many of the members gathered at 7:00 A.M. to go on a field trip which included Island Park near Lake Superior and Hawk Ridge Nature Preserve. On a ball diamond of Island Park, we saw many Black-bellied Plovers in their fall plumage.

I was standing near Peter Petersen, editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, watching the two Buff-breasted Sandpipers he had pointed out to me when he sighted two longspurs running along side by side. We could see the broad white wingbar of the Smith's Longspur; the other was the Lapland Longspur.

And so for the year 1973, I listed four different species of longspurs -- the Chestnut-collared, the Smith's, the Mc Cown's, and the Lapland Longspurs. The first two, the Chestnut-collared and the Smith's Longspurs, were new ones for my life list.

Goose Lake Adventure

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Located five miles northwest of Jefferson, Iowa, is Goose Lake Wildlife Management Area. It is a unique area for Iowa, for it is a six hundred acre marsh.

It is about twenty percent open water and eighty percent cattails. In the fall it is for the hunters, but the rest of the year it is for us, the friends of nature.

The Keith Laytons of Oskaloosa and the Charles Ayres of Ottumwa visit the area every June, drawn by the nesting birds that they are able to band there. This year the Virgil Corzettes of Ottumwa and my wife Valerie and I had the pleasure of joining them on their trip on June 9th.

The primary bird we were searching for was hollow-headed Blackbird. He is a beautiful bird, with the yellow, black and white so wonderfully contrasting. We never tired of looking at him, and we had plenty of chances, for we estimated five hundred nesting pair at the marsh. The Laytons and Ayres have a special project of banding nestling Yellow-heads. The Laytons had been here two weeks before and Keith had marked one hundred and four nests containing one hundred and seventy-four eggs. Unfortunately, most of the nestlings had fledged and we only banded twelve. Some years they get close to one hundred. There also appeared to be some storm damage to the nests. Nature is no simple matter. What an experience it was to wander among the cattails in water sometimes waist high, sometimes wandering into that shy bird, the Long-billed Marsh Wren and its many nests. The following is a list of birds banded that weekend:

Willow Flycatcher	2	Common Yellowthroat	1
Tree Swallow	2	Yellow-headed Blackbird	32
Black-capped Chickadee	1	Red-winged Blackbird	11
Brown Thrasher	1	Common Grackle	1
American Robin	1	American Goldfinch	1
Yellow Warbler	1	Song Sparrow	2

This is a total of twelve species and fifty-six birds. The Tree Swallows were the real bonus birds, for those two and the two banded by Laytons two weeks before here were for both of them their first ever. They had never even seen them here before, although they are probably present during migration. They were definitely nesting, for Virgil found one of their nests in a small dead tree out in the marsh for all of us to see. Many times they get a bonus bird, for example, they have banded here Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Virginia Rails and Least Bitterns.

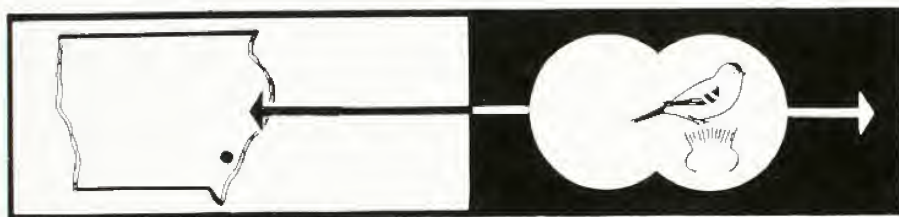
I must tell a short story. In past years Keith would band the nestlings and the required records would be filled out later on shore. The past couple of years Keith has come up with a better idea. He takes a walkie-talkie with him into the marsh. Thus he is able to band at will and call to Irene who writes down the appropriate information. This year we took two of them into the marsh and this enabled us to separate and cover more ground. Also, when one of us saw a good bird, he could call to the other one and point it out. We had wandered a half-mile down the marsh when a sudden rainstorm came up. We got out at the other small parking lot and called for Valerie to come and get us. After we were in the car it began to pour, so we were saved a soaking by our "modern equipment." Alas, poor Darlene and Virgil were at the other end of the marsh and had to walk through it to get back. They would have stayed drier if they had sat down in the marsh. Of course, we had a good laugh and a little rain never hurt anybody anyway, I don't think?

One does not have to be a bander to enjoy this area. Besides the Yellow-headed Blackbirds, which are worth the trip themselves, I would like to mention some the more exciting observations we all saw or heard. Pied-billed Grebe, Great-Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Common Crow and the Long-billed Marsh Wrens. The Black-crowned Night Herons were especially common, for many times four or five could be seen at once. We suspect a good size nesting colony. I

mentioned the Crows because of the numbers, for we saw a flock at evening of an estimated two hundred, and they have seen flocks of five hundred here. That's a lot of Crows.

If any of you birders are ever near here be sure to stop, or even consider a special trip. I'm sure you will enjoy it very much and find it as we did, a very rewarding and enlightening experience.

P.S. Don't forget your waders!



Birding areas in Des Moines county and adjacent Illinois with some Lee county areas

JANE C. FULLER

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Burlington

In Des Moines County and adjacent Illinois, the scene is dominated by the Mississippi River. This article will, no doubt, cover the northwest portion of the county inadequately. Since the northwest is largely farming area -- mostly extensively cultivated right up to the fences -- it is not too rewarding, although there are small wooded areas that might be productive. I am rather unfamiliar with this section. The county lacks a really good marsh. The north bottoms region can be good at most seasons.

THE NORTH BOTTOMS TOUR

Coming down state highway 99 from Wapello, after passing H38, Mediapolis blacktop on the right, turn left on the second gravel road to the Allen Green Refuge (1). Don't try fall birding for water birds in this county, although there is no hunting on this refuge. Beside the facts that the ducks are wary and not in best plumage, there is the danger from hunters. Spring can be very rewarding for water birds and it is possible to get quite close to the birds. No wintering ducks.

(2) Meeker's Landing. If you go over levee, often bay ducks are in evidence at proper season. Other small birds along shore.

(3) Continuing south on county roads shown on map -- gravel all-weather -- you arrive at the parking lot on the Mississippi levee looking toward Oquawka, Ill. In winter, open water often contains Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, and Common Mergansers. In spring there may be good concentrations of ducks as early as the last of February, depending on how open the river is. A telescope is helpful.

As you continue on marked county roads, wintertime concentrations of Mallards are often impressive. The drainage ditches remain open until very bitter weather. Black Ducks and Pintails are occasionally seen. Common Snipe and Killdeer are also winter residents.

(4) Following the dead end road to levee often is rewarding. A small marshy area always yields snipe and Killdeer. Swamp and Song Sparrows, and Red-winged Blackbirds may be found in winter. There are Bobwhite and many types of woodpeckers. Depending on state of vegetation, waders may be found in spring. Golden Plovers and Black-bellied Plovers, Willets, dowitchers and Dunlin are occasional and dabbling ducks are present in spring. The levee will provide views of bay ducks, but a telescope is needed for much success.

On these county roads are sometimes to be found during winter Short-eared Owls on fence posts or in fields and flocks of Snow Buntings. Longspurs may be mixed with the frequent Horned Larks. Rough-legged Hawks are here, too.

(5) The wing dam at the access on river levee just north of Burlington can provide wintering ducks in the open water; Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneyes and mergansers. This is a good place to see eagles who perch in trees adjacent to the dam. There are many woodpeckers in trees along river.

(6) This is a sheltered wooded area with a creek. It is almost always rewarding birdwise. Take route 99 north from Burlington city limits for approximately 5 miles, turning west on first road north of T-150, following a small creek. In winter many of the more uncommon residents can be found: Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird and Belted Kingfisher as well as Red-headed Woodpeckers. After you cross the creek turn around. The road up the hill is not surfaced and is impassable except in dry weather. If you are lucky and the weather cooperates, continue up the steep hill. The area is great for spring warblers. Yellow-throated Warblers and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are found in migration. There is a pair of Red-tailed Hawks.

(7) Returning to route 99, go back to T-150, next gravel road south going west, along a stream that has steep rock banks and a miniature canyon. Carolina Wrens live here in winter and spring and also the Mockingbird. At the top of the canyon as the road comes out into a gentle valley, Harris' Sparrows have been seen in spring and there are bluebirds almost any season.

(8) In spring or summer, continue west, passing one gravel road to the north and turning right, north on second. Continue north crossing railroad tracks and continuing until you come to sign "Surfacing ends." Listen for Grasshopper Sparrows as you drive this road. Take the sign seriously. If it is dry, you may drive further. If not, you must walk. It is rewarding. The little bridge crossing the creek has Eastern Phoebes nesting under it. Among summer residents are Scarlet Tanagers, Carolina Wrens, Yellow-throated, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos. A Yellow-throated Warbler was seen in midsummer so probably nested. American Redstarts, Indigo Buntings, Field Sparrows, Bobwhite, and both species of cuckoos are resident. In spring, migrating warblers and vireos are numerous. This is a delightful unspoiled area (except when they spray the roadsides.)

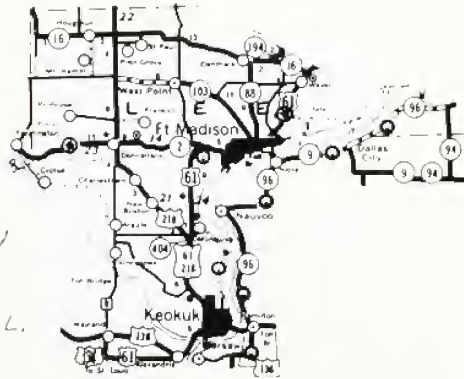
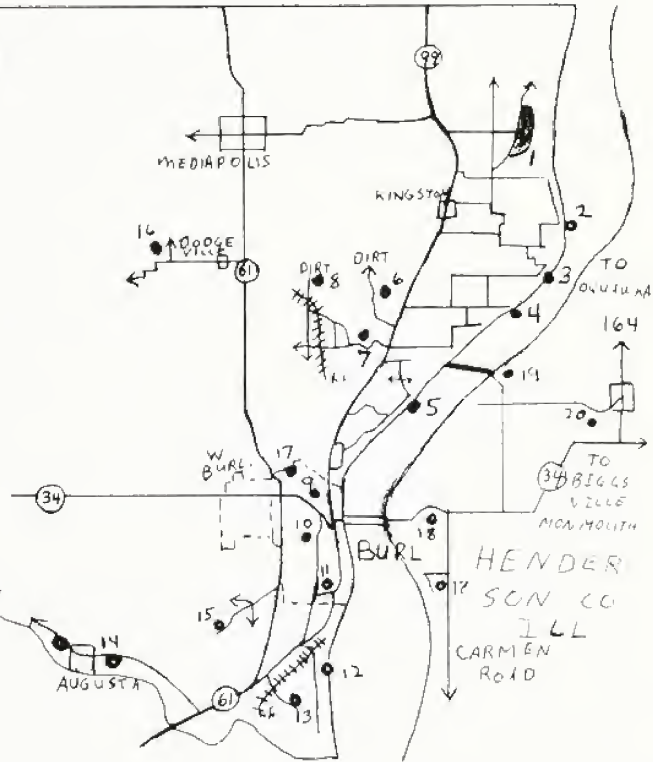
IN THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

(9) Aspen Grove Cemetery. From main entrance proceed until road on left goes down hill. At the bottom is a small stream where in spring all warblers drink and bathe, including Ovenbirds and waterthrushes. In pines on the hill Barred Owls are to be found. Often a Red-tailed Hawk is in the area. Cedars in another section of the cemetery often yield Pine Siskins and occasionally Red Crossbills in winter. Wood Ducks and Chipping Sparrows nest here. Cedar Waxwings are in many places. In spring many parts of the cemetery are exceptional warbler stop overs.

(10) Perkins Park is across from my house so I am quite familiar with it. It has

DE S MOINES COUNTY

1. Allen Green
2. Meeker's Landing
3. Parking Lot
4. Dead End Road
5. Wing Dam
6. Wooded Area
7. "Canyon"
8. "Surfacing Ends"
9. Apsen Grove
10. Perkins Park
11. Crapo Park
12. ISU Plant
13. Spring Grove
14. Skunk River
15. Spring Creek
16. Franklin Lake
17. Starr's Cave
18. Carthage Lake
19. L & D No. 18
20. Gladstone Lake
- ③- State, U. S. Hiway
- R. R. Tracks
- ← Road Continues
- town



become so tidy that many birds that used to nest there are missing. Barred Owls, Indigo Buntings, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos and Song Sparrows are there occasionally, but no longer nest. In winter there are many Dark-eyed Juncos, occasional Tree Sparrows, Song Sparrow, Brown Creeper, sometimes Red-breasted Nuthatch and Cedar Waxwings. Red-headed Woodpeckers have wintered and nest, along with Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied and Common Flickers. A tiny stream in ravine and Chinese elms by the school buildings are good warbler spots in spring and fall and also assorted sparrows. Gray Catbird, Cardinal, Blue Jay Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Mourning Dove and Wood Duck nest. In spring and fall the chimney on school holds thousands of Chimney Swifts. Nighthawks nest on roof of the school.

(11) Crapo Park and neighboring Dankwardt Park are beautiful and usually productive birdwise all seasons of the year. The Mississippi bluff and trails bring you eye level with warblers in the tree tops. Looking out over the river in proper season you can see several species of gulls and Great Blue Herons. At the bottom of the bluff the vegetation along the railroad track and on the bluffs provides shelter for wintering American Robins, Carolina Wrens, American Goldfinch, Winter Wrens and many species of woodpecker. Even the Pileated Woodpecker has been seen here. Bald Eagles perch in trees close to open spots in the ice in winter. Occasional rarities such as a Hermit Thrush or Fox Sparrow winter. The walk along the sewer, take a paved walkway beginning just north of Dankwardt Park where a sign says "No motorcycles"; in the winter Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Mourning Dove and Brown Creeper are found here. Spring is great for migrating warblers and vireos, as well as thrushes and sparrows. Wood Ducks nest in boxes near the bluff and can be easily seen in early morning. In winter the grove of pines near the skating pond has had a flock of White-winged Crossbills. In January a Yellow-rumped Warbler was in the area, also kinglets. At the west side of an isolated evergreen a Great Horned Owl has wintered. Screech Owls are sometimes roosting in the Wood Duck boxes.

SOUTH BOTTOMS TOUR

(12) South of Burlington, following the Great River Road, turn east to the J.S.U. plant. In winter there is open water below plant which often yields ducks. In spring there may be ducks and herons in water adjacent to road. Also Pied-billed Grebes and occasionally Eared or Horned Grebes, Great Blue Heron and Great Egrets. Depending on river stages, flooding may make the area attractive to waders. If unsurfaced road is open and not flooded, a drive on down to the river is good. Prothonotary Warblers nest and there are many warblers in migration. Pileated Woodpeckers also nest. There are many nesting vireos, Warbling, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated, and sparrows in migration. The swampy area is good for herons, egrets and kingfishers.

(13) Continue south on river road after crossing small creek to gravel road on left with sign "Spring Grove Gravel." Follow this road across tracks. Two small ponds -- one is an area for campers and as such is unprofitable. In spring over-flow of river fields are often covered and as water recedes, waders can be numerous. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, Yellow-crowned Night Heron rarely, Black-crowned Night Heron, Green and Great Blue Heron and Great Egret are found. Long-billed Marsh Wren has been seen near road. The road is dead end at a locked gate to Spring Grove -- Raid's sand pit. In spite of the "No Trespassing" signs, many fishermen go in. Prothonotary Warblers nest here; also vireos, American Redstarts, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers and Song Sparrows. This fall there

has been a pair of Osprey at the sand pit lake. Caspian Terns show up in spring and fall. Blue-winged Teal nest and some crazy cross-bred Mallards.

OTHER IOWA AREAS

(14) There are three Skunk River accesses with good plantings and areas for wildlife. Indigo Buntings, Barn, Tree and Bank Swallows, bluebirds, Eastern Kingbirds, and kingfishers particularly in the access nearest Augusta. To reach these areas, turn right just before highway 61 crosses Skunk River bridge. The gravel road follows the river for a number of miles. Turkey Vultures are plentiful.

(15) Spring Creek-Brush College area is rewarding if the motorcyclists aren't out. Early morning is particularly good. In wet weather you must stop at bridge before going up hill. At the creek, you may find cuckoos, tanagers, Kentucky Warblers, vireos, and bluebirds. In the field up the hill are Vesper Sparrows. This is really wild area. There are several small cemeteries and adjacent areas which are productive in the migration season.

(16) New Lake, Franklin Township Lakesite, is a new county conservation development. The lake and area are to provide a variety of areas including nature study. Many types of habitat will be included.

(17) A new area a mile north of Burlington, Starr's Cave Park, is to be maintained as a forest preserve with hiking trails. It contains a cave and limestone bluffs and the area has previously been great for migrating warblers and sparrows, bluebirds, kingfishers, herons and good for wintering birds.

ADJACENT ILLINOIS AREAS

(18) Follow highway 34 across bridge. There are several small lakes along the highway which sometimes have birds in them. Turn south, right, at Carman blacktop and then turn right again on first gravel road and proceed to small lake. With telescope or good binoculars, ducks and geese may be seen well in spring migration. At the levee where road dead ends at Carthage Lake Club Bald Eagles are plentiful all winter and particularly as ice breaks up. As many as 52 have been counted at one time. Occasionally Great Horned or Barred Owls are seen.

(19) Returning to highway 34, continue east to Lock and Dam No. 18 road. Turn left, north. When you reach the dam, it is rewarding to walk the levee in spring for all varieties of birds, both land and water. Many coots are around when the spring overflow is on. Many eagles in winter and early spring in trees across the river or flying over the dam. Gulls are also plentiful. Pileated Woodpeckers have been seen.

(20) Gladstone State Park is a small lake which was formed when the railroad used it as a sandpit. It is deep and cold, but Hooded Mergansers, and the Eared and Horned Grebe have been seen here. Green Heron and Great Blues, numerous swallows, nesting, Common Yellowthroats, Horned Larks and Indigo Bunting, and cuckoos can be found. Bell's Vireos have nested in bushes along railroad right of way. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos nest. Lark Sparrows are found in sandy area above the lake to the south.

LEE COUNTY

PETER C. PETERSEN

To round out the coverage of southeast Iowa the Lee County areas are being listed with primarily habitat notes. It is hoped this will aid birders -- no one could be found to provide a complete coverage.

Lock 19 -- This lock and dam is the oldest along the Mississippi and has long been a concentration point for wintering Bald Eagles. During ideal weather conditions, extreme cold for an extended period, up to one hundred eagles can be seen from the Keokuk river front. They usually perch in Illinois along the edge of the river. The Cedar Glen Sanctuary roost is located in Illinois northeast of Warsaw. The pool above the lock is a great concentration point for migrating diving ducks, especially Canvasback and Lesser Scaup. During the March and November peaks over 100,000 Canvasback have been recorded, about one-third of the U. S. population. Best observation points are found along county road A in Iowa and state highway 96 in Illinois. Other diving ducks, gulls and terns can be found in the area also. Road A goes through good mixed habitat and has produced White-eyed Vireos and Yellow-breasted Chats.

Green Bay Area -- The only sizeable state owned area in the county except for Shimek State Forest which has been covered (IBL, Vol 44 p. 17). It is a public hunting area located 4 miles S. of Weaver and consists of 200 acres. The habitat includes forest and open areas. The area should not be counted on during the waterfowl season as many birds would be driven away by the hunters.

Chatfield Park -- This 80 acre county park is located west of routes 61 and 218 off a road about a mile north of their junction. It is a heavily wooded area surrounding a 30 acre lake. The general area is known as Mooar and a field trip visited it during the 1959 spring I. O. U. meeting. Camping is permitted.

Wilson Lake -- Another county park, this is a 75 acre semi-wooded area with a 10 acre lake. It is located 4 miles east of Donnellson.

Pollmiller Park -- This county park is the same size as Wilson Lake and of similar nature but lacking a lake. It is one mile southwest of West Point along route 103.

Werner Memorial Woods -- This final sizeable county park is a 44 acre area located 4 miles north of Fort Madison on route 88. It is heavily wooded area.

Rand Park -- This city park features some coniferous planting and a good overlook of pool 19 about three-fourths of a mile above the lock. It is reached via Grand Ave.

Oakland Cemetery -- A large wooded cemetery on the western edge of the city it features ravines and coniferous plantings. To reach it take 18th Street west from Main St. (route 218).

Lee County contains much forested land and is quite hilly. Many county gravel roads go through very diverse, productive habitat for birding. Birders are encouraged to follow these roads, especially those going west off route 61.

FIELD REPORTS



October temperatures were normal, but it was a dry month with almost no precipitation until the last two days. November, for the first three weeks has been rainy, with a 4-inch snow on the 13th in the central part.

Loons, Grebes, Pelicans, Cormorants. The only Common Loons reported were at the Des Moines Res. on 24 October (RM); Lake McBride on 16 and 17 November

(MH); and 2 at Lock 13 on 26 October (PP). Few grebes, other than Pied-billed, were reported: 7 Horned on 19 October and 4 on 16 November (MH); 10 on 26 October at Lock 13 and Sabula (PP); and 17 November on Cedar L. (LS). A flight of White Pelicans on 18 October was only 10 days prior to the latest record (EG). With the exception of a flock of 30 Cormorants in the last week of September at Red Rock Dam (GB), few were mentioned; Swan L. 22 September (NH); Des Moines on 24 October (RM); and 2 at Sabula on 26 October (PP).

Hérons. A few single Great Blues were reported. The only mention of Great Egrets was of 1 on 22 September and 14 on 29 September (NH). The only Black-crowned Night Herons were in the Red Rock area with 5 at Runnells on 23 September and 3 in the Refuge in that month (GB).

Geese, Ducks. Red Rock had 250 of the Hutchin's variety of Canada at one time, but the peaks of 3500 Snows and 500 Canadas were very low (GB). Mallards seemed way down (HD). The peak of 12,000 the week of 10 November compares with the aerial counts of 37,000 and 70,000 in '70 and '72 (GB). An influx of unspecified numbers occurred on 11 November (RP). Several Buffleheads were noted on 17 November (RM,MB). A pair of Hooded Mergansers were on Cedar L. on 17 November (LS), and 75 Common at Lock 13 on 16 November (PP).

Vultures, Hawks. There were thought more hawks than usual this year with 15 buteos, including at least 2 Rough-legged, seen on 22 October (HD). There was a good population of Turkey Vultures (RJ). An adult Goshawk was seen on 16 November (NH). Several Sharp-shinned were seen (NH,RJ), but only 2 banded (PP). A Cooper's was seen on 21 September (PP), and early in November (EA). Red-tailed seemed few (RJ). There were few Broad-winged (NH), and none seen (RJ). Occasional Rough-legged have been seen (RP); one was at Lake Keomah on 3 November (RJ); a dark phased one was seen on 9 and 16 November (NH). Only 3 Bald Eagles on 20 October, and 1 on 10 November compare with the 10-20 usually seen each fall (GB). Two were seen on 9 November at Mark Twain NWR, 1 at Lock 14, and 1 at Princeton on the 16th (PP). From 1 to 5 Marsh Hawks were seen in different areas during September and October. Ospreys were seen at Coralville on 12 October (NH); 4 November at Rock Creek and on the 7th at Red Rock (HD) and on 21 October at L. Keomah (RJ). There is no pattern discernable in the reports of Kestrels, but Geo. Cox, Refuge Mgr. saw 50, most on the roads north of the Refuge (GB).

Grouse, Quail, Pheasants. A Sharp-tailed Grouse hen seen on 13 November near Hamburg must have been an escape (EG). It has not been recorded in the state for many years. Pheasants are few (NH), and both Bobwhites and Pheasants are down perhaps 60 percent due to wet weather during the nesting period (Geo. Cox, fide GB).

Turkeys, Cranes. A flock of 16 or more turkeys, some half grown, was seen near Shimek State Forest in September (HD). On 3 October 6 Sandhill Cranes were in the Riverton Refuge (Don Priebe, fide RP).

Shorebirds. The migration was considered good, but smaller than 1973 (GB). Two reports of rails, identified as the Yellow, were received. On 27 September one was watched feeding at 10 ft. in the Conesville Marsh. Evidently, the bird did not flush as no mention was made of the white wing patches which are prominent (MG). On 30 September a rail was flushed from an alfalfa field near Booneville, showing the wing patches in flight (EA). Coots and Killdeer have been plentiful. Semiplumated, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers were in fair numbers in September and October (GB). Twelve Golden Plovers were seen in late September and early October, and as many as 3 Black-bellied from 5 to 20 October (NH). Four

Woodcock were seen in October and November while one was netted on 6 November (PP). Snipe were late but easily seen feeding in the open with 12 or more seen from 22 September to 2 November (NH). On 19 October 4 Willet were seen at Coralville (LS). Dunlin were first seen on 2 October with 50 present on 2 November (NH). A Hudsonian Godwit, rare in fall, was on Cedar L. on 5 October (LS). As many as 12 Sanderlings were present between 5 and 20 October; one was shot by a hunter who referred to it as "that there snipe" (NH).

Gulls, Terns. Ring-billed Gulls were common through October and still present on 17 November (NH). There were from 150 to 200 at Red Rock Dam during the same period (HD,GB). Five hundred Franklin's moved through in the week of 20 October (GB). Bonaparte's seen were one at Swan L. on 20 October (NH), and 15 at Sabula on 26 October (PP). There were 6 Caspian Terns at Coralville from 29 September to 15 October (NH), and 25 at Red Rock in September.

Cuckoos, Owls. A Black-billed Cuckoo was netted on the rather late date 13 October (PP). Four Short-eared Owls were seen on 26 October where one had been seen in August. They had been reported as having been there all summer (NH). None was seen in the Shenandoah area (RP), with one near Booneville (EA). A Saw-whet was seen on 9 November (D. Petersen, fide NH), and 7 were netted from 9 October to 5 November (PP).

Whip-poor-wills, Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds. Whip-poor-wills remained until early October with 2 netted in mid-September (PP), and Dean Mosman banded one in his yard on 28 September. A large flock of Nighthawks was sighted on 26 September (RP). A large migration of Chimney Swifts was noted on 5 October (RP), and a flock of 500 was observed on 28 September (RJ). Hummingbirds were seen on 14 days between 28 August and 24 September (DM), while 3 were netted and a fourth seen in September (PP).

Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. Red-headed Woodpeckers appear to have left despite the ample supply of acorns in many areas, and are seen only at feeders (NH). The only Sapsucker reports are 21 September (PP), and 15 October (MG), and none seen (RP). Eastern Kingbirds were numerous: an estimated flock of 500 perched on wires like swallows (WmB); many were seen at Pike's Peak on 8 October (HD); an extremely large migration occurred between 8 and 12 September (DM). Eastern Phoebe were banded on the rather late dates 17 and 23 October (RP), and 21 and 25 October (PP).

Swallows. A mixed flock of 1000 Tree, Barn, and Rough-winged was at Rock Creek L. on 3 September, but were gone three days later (HD). On 15 September a flock of Tree Swallows estimated at 1000 birds "caused the wires to sag" (HP). A flock of 500 was present on 22 October (GB). A flock of at least 1000 Barn Swallows was seen on a farm south of Pleasantville on 16 and 17 September (GB). Late Barn and Cliff Swallows were seen on 29 October (RJ).

Titmice, Nuthatches, Wrens. There are very few Titmice (RP), and they appear to be decreasing in Polk Co. Red-breasted Nuthatches were common but none netted (PP). None has been seen in Des Moines. A late House Wren was netted on 7 November (PP). More Winter Wrens than usual were reported: first seen 28 September and several later (NH); one in the yard on 1 October (HP) 42 netted between the early date 20 September and 7 November with many others seen (PP); and 1 banded 23 October and another seen 1 November (RP).

Mimics, Thrushes, Kinglets, Pipits. No Mockingbirds were reported. Robins were generally plentiful. A total of 145 Hermit Thrushes were netted between 30 September and 5 November compared to 20 last year (PP). Swainson's peaked on 12 September with 22 banded, out of a seasonal total of only 54 (PP). Reports of Bluebirds are conflicting: none all fall (NH); only two small flocks (GB); but 13 in

Allamakee Co. on 24 September (KZ); many at Pike's Peak on 8 October, and 30-40 in Roberts Creek Park on 26 October (HD); and abundant on 23 October with 5 banded (RP). Both Kinglets were numerous; a big migration of Golden-crowned on 23-24 October (GDeL); abundant, 10 banded on 19 October (RP); 170 netted from 30 September to 8 November (PP). Ruby-crowned were numerous (RP), and 239 netted from 20 September to 5 November (PP). Water Pipits were seen in two areas, Coralville with up to 50 from 28 September to 6 October (NH), and Chichaqua Ref. with 4 on 16 October (MB) and 23 on the 23rd (DM).

Vireos, Warblers. The first Solitary Vireo was netted on the rather early date 3 September, and the last of 8 on 10 October. A low total of 15 Red-eyed was netted (PP). These made up 50 percent of the kill at the TV tower at Alleman, just north of Des Moines. On 12 September 516 were found and 86 on the 13th (DM). The warbler migration was very poor (RP), and there were almost none but Yellow-rumped (GB). The best days were 3 to 5 and 20 September (PP). Only 21 Tennessees were netted, the last on 19 October (PP). They were fewer than usual in Des Moines. A wave of Nashvilles came on 25 October and 67 were banded (GDeL). The last of one of a total of 115 was banded on 27 October (PP). There were quite late Magnolias, one each on 2 November in Lamoni and Davenport. There were 6 of the rare Black-throated Blue banded on four dates with two other sightings (PP). Flocks of the Yellow-rumped appeared on 13 and 20 October (GB), but only 49 were netted (PP), and the only good wave was on 25 October (RP). An extremely late Blackburnian was seen on 16 November (DM). On 1 October, a warbler thought to be a Kentucky came to a feeder so briefly that positive identification was not possible (HP). The rather rare Connecticut was banded on 13 September (PP). From 1 September to the late dates 12 and 14 October there were 54 Redstarts netted (PP).

Blackbirds, Finches. Only 1 Rusty Blackbird was mentioned, that on 8 November (RP). Grackles continue to increase. This was thought the poorest fall ever for sparrows due to lack of weedy fields (GB), but October was a good month (GDeL). Indigo Buntings were missed (PP). A late Dickcissel appeared on 24 September (RP). Purple Finches came on 19 October and were in numbers by 3 November (NH). In Des Moines there have been only 3 or 4 reports of one each. Goldfinches were abundant (RP). The spotted variety of the Towhee was banded on 12 October, his first ever, (PP), and on the following day by Marie Spears (fide RP). The eastern variety was at a feeder from 9 to 11 November (HP). A LeConte's Sparrow was seen at close range on 26 October (NH), and "many others" were seen on 2 October by D. Peterson and James Taylor (fide NH). The rare Henslow's was banded on 24 October (PP). The former also reported a Sharp-tailed Sparrow on 28 September (fide NH). Juncos were late in appearing but there were many (GDeL, RP), and more than 500 banded (PP). Tree Sparrows were abundant (RP). Harris' Sparrows appear to have been largely in the south where they were the "most ever" (DeL), and numerous (RP). White-throated were very numerous (DeL), but fewer than usual (RP). Fox Sparrows were fewer (RP), but the 14 banded were more than usual (DeL), and 66 were banded between 21 and September and 8 November (PP). Lincoln's were unusually common (NH) and more than ever banded (DeL), but thought fewer (RP). A flock of Lapland Langspurs was seen in mid November with one road-killed (EA).

Contributors: Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Gladys Black, Pleasantville and Red Rock; Wm. Boller, Des Moines; Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Dorow, Newton; Mrs. E. Getscher, Hamburg; Marilyn Glasson, Coralville; Nicholas Halmi, Iowa City; Robt. Jesson, Oskaloosa; Richard Mooney, Des Moines; Dean Mosman, Ankeny; Helen Peasley, Des

Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Kevin Zimmer, Fargo, N. D.

The number of reports this time is disappointing and coverage of the state is woefully inadequate. E.g. There is no information from anyone residing north of Hwy. 30, and except for the Shenandoah-Hamburg area, nothing from west of Hwy. 69.

The compiler for this department of IBL expects to be away most of February, and all items for the March issue should be sent to Peter Petersen by the 20 February deadline. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Dr., Des Moines, 50312.

GENERAL NOTES



Albino Wood Duck Captured at Lake Odessa -- On several occasions during the summer of 1971, an albino Wood Duck was reported to Iowa Conservation Commission personnel at Lake Odessa in Southeastern Iowa. A pure albino Wood Duck was subsequently captured by State Wildlife Biologist Jim Rippel on September 3, 1971, in a floating bait trap used in waterfowl banding operations. The duck, a juvenile female, was taken to the Iowa Conservation Commission's Wildlife Exhibit at Boone, Iowa.



Female albino Wood Duck with normal colored drake. Photo by the author.

During the nesting seasons of 1972 and 1973, this duck paired off with a normal colored drake but she made no attempt to nest even though nest boxes were provided and other female wood ducks successfully raised broods in the same enclosure - RONNIE R. GEORGE, Iowa Conservation Commission, Wildlife Research Station, Boone, Iowa 50036.

The Sassy Little Dickcissel! -- While cruising the highways and byways we became very much aware of the many Dickcissels in Iowa this year. While the plainly colored female is hardly noticeable, the male with his yellow breast and black bib perches on power and telephone lines to proclaim his presence to the countryside. His staccato song to me, has three variations, like "Dick-ciss-chiss" or "Chup-chup-cheep-clip" or this "Clip-gee-gee-sicc". Just depends on how good our hearing is, very likely. One thing is sure, whatever his songs lack in melody he makes up for it in volume poured forth from his tiny lungs.

He is a bird hard to photograph. By the time you get your car stopped and reach for a camera he has moved just far enough that he'd be a small speck in the frame of your film. He is only about five and three-quarter inches long and very likely weighs less than that in ounces. I was surprised to get this photo with a 500 mm handheld lens . . . right out of the car window. Maybe I was lucky because this bird was doing some acrobatic antics on the wire. He would pour out several bursts of song, facing me . . . then with a quick hop land on his feet on the wire, facing the opposite side to pour out some more song. When I reached for the other camera, hopeful of a color shot with him facing me . . . showing his yellow breast and black bib . . . he took off.



Oh, well! I still admire this sassy little bird that many of us hear but do not recognize because he just does not stay put on one spot long enough for people to take a good look at him to really identify and make sure he is not a sparrow . . . that would be an insult to him . . . for the Dickcissel belongs to the elite that winter in South America. HERB DOROW, 1200 S. 8th Ave. East, Newton.

Sight record of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper near Iowa City -- On October 3, 1974, after two record-breaking cold fronts had moved through Iowa, I was examining a flock of mixed shorebirds between 2:10 and 2:35 p.m., off county road 0 in Johnson County, with 7 x 35 Leitz Trinovid binoculars and a 20-45 x Bushnell zoom scope. It was a sunny day, and my position due west of the birds made for excellent lighting. The flock consisted of 9 Long-billed Dowitchers (identified by voice), 12 Snipe, 1 Dunlin, 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 2 Killdeers, and a typical Pectoral Sandpiper. Foraging in a leisurely manner along with the Pectoral was a very similar bird, some 1/4" longer, essentially identical in shape, movements, behavior, bill (black, about the length of the head) and legs (yellowish). This bird differed from the Pectoral by having a bright rufous crown with fine black longitudinal streaking, offset by a prominent white superciliary line becoming less distinct and fusing behind the crown, and by lacking an abruptly ending "bib" of dark markings on the chest, instead of having a buffy, in places almost orange, chest blending gradually with the white belly, with fine lateral streakings merging only in a narrow band just below the white throat. Other field marks noted were the scaly back and buffy edgings on the primaries and some of the median wing coverts. The bird did not call, nor could it be flushed to show the tail pattern. The tail extended slightly beyond the tip of the wing. The bird was observed at leisure while it moved from 25 to 60 ft. After consideration of species somewhat similar (Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper), I had to conclude that the field marks fitted only one species, the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*). This Siberian breeder has been regularly observed on the West Coast, and as an accidental in other US coastal locations. The only inland observation was apparently in Arizona in October 1972 (*Am. Birds* 27:98, 1973). As pointed in *A Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand* by Falla et al. (p. 142), the breeding area of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Siberia is enclosed by that of the Pectoral, so their joint migration might not be unexpected. The bird observed matched the picture in Robbins et al., p. 123, so far as the head is concerned. The breast of the bird depicted there is, however, that of one in breeding plumage. The description in Falla et al. strengthened my faith in the identification. "Crown, chestnut streaked black," "superciliary stripe whitish", "breast gray or buffish with irregular streaks, fading to white on the abdomen, **but with no sharp line of demarcation**" (emphasis theirs), "young birds -- look tawny and have bright chestnut crowns". -- N. S. Halmi, M.D., Box 182, R. No. 6, Iowa City.

Our Birds Have Problems Too -- The wet 1974 spring caused problems and losses in the reproduction of our landbirds and waterfowl. In Mariposa Park, Jasper County, a pair of Mute Swans were about ready to have their cygnets hatch when along came an over four inch rainstorm in the area . . . sending a flood of water down the hill sides sweeping the contents of the swan nest into the lake, and with it, my hopes of making a photographic record of the swan family.

This same rainstorm spoiled my hopes of also making a record of a Mourning Dove family. Just inside the entrance of the park a pair of Mourning Doves built their nest on a sturdy willow branch about seven feet above the ground. It was well hidden to the casual eye, and a small stream and thick brush helped keep human intruders (except bird watchers) away. I made several trips to the park in order to watch and photograph their activity. And thru all the nest building and brooding they really acted like a pair of love birds.



Photos by Herb Dorow

The doves seemed to take me for granted. Moving very carefully, I succeeded in getting a good close-up of the bird on the nest. One can see a look of apprehension in the dove's eye and some minutes later I knew why when she flew off the nest for a few minutes to join her mate I slipped up to the nest to see a just hatched squab and unhatched egg! After taking some pictures I returned to the station wagon to watch with field glasses for her return to the nest, but before I was very far away one of the parent birds settled down on the nest.

It was after seeing the empty swan nest I became very apprehensive about the welfare of the Mourning Dove family. Did they inspire of the rain and wind, keep their family intact? I came to the area and there were no doves in sight. The nest was empty, and lying in the tall grass near the nest was the young squab cold in death.

What are the feelings of wildlife parents, do they feel sorrow in their hearts when losing their babies? Only God, their Creator, knows the answer. But, for us, it is something to think about! -- Herb Dorow, 1200 S. 8th Ave. E., Newton.

BOOK REVIEWS



Bird Life -- Jurgen Nicolai -- G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York -- 224 p., 144 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$25.00.

At first glance this seems to be another nice "coffee table" book on birds featuring lavishly reproduced photographs. A close look reveals a well written text although it is somewhat extended by the large type size used. The author, a behaviorist and student of Konrad Lorenz, has written a definitive study of birds based on his years of observation and experiment. He covers evolution, spread, courtship, display, nest building, brood care, sharing the ecosystem, camouflage, deception, flight and migration. Birds from all over the world are used for examples and the photographs depict many of the species mentioned. They represent the work of some of the best bird photographers in the world and are worth the price of the book on their own merit. ed.

The Book of Owls -- Lewis Wayne Walker -- Alfred A. Knopf, New York -- 256 p., 94 black-and-white photographs, one map -- 1974 -- \$12.50.

A nice collection of photographs of and information, anecdotes and personal discoveries about owls. The author, long associated with the Arizona -- Sonora Desert Museum, studied owls at various times throughout his museum career. The book deals with many of the North American owls, species by species. Two chapters are contributed by other authors, Grace Miller and Al Oeming, and the photographs are the work of many photographers including the author. The bulk of the text is basic life history information presented in straightforward prose. Separate sections are presented for voice, nesting, hours of activity and food. Much of the information is based on the author's own research. The author's wife completed the text after his death. ed.

A Birder's Guide to Minnesota -- K. R. Eckert -- sponsored by the Minnesota Ornithologists Union, Bell Museum, U. of Minnesota, Minneapolis -- 114 p., 12 black-and-white photographs, 6 maps -- 1974 -- \$3.75 including postage, paper-bound.

This book updates Pettingill's *Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi* and presents the information in a very convenient format. Getting away from the conventional approach of geographical listing with comments on specific areas for all seasons, the author first splits the year into seasons: winter, migration and summer. Here he subdivides into geographic regions so one doesn't have to deal with all the winter birds in an area visited during the summer. The author directs the reader to habitats and refers to groups of likely birds. Some rare or restricted species are covered in detail as many people come to Minnesota specifically to find them. The book also includes the names, addresses and phone numbers of twelve birders who can be contacted for local help. A list of the 144 more sought after birds is also included with general comments on where and when to find them. For the general naturalist a list of mammals, reptiles and amphibians will be found.

The book is certainly to be recommended for any birder visiting Minnesota. It could well serve as a model for other state guides being contemplated. Beginners should realize a good basic knowledge and background in birding is assumed. ed.

Songs of North American Thrushes and Songs of Caprimulgids and Cuckoos - Voices of Nature -- Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York -- two monaural cassette tapes -- 1971 and 1972 -- \$3.95 each.

These cassettes are prepared primarily for those who wish to lure birds out of cover for easier observation or photography. They can also be used for learning the songs. Each species song covers about three minutes on the tape and the quality of reproduction is very high. The thrush tape includes Wood, Hermit, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrush, Veery, American Robin, Townsend's Solitaire, Eastern, Western and Mountain Bluebird. The goatsucker and cuckoo tape includes Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Parakee, Common and Lesser Nighthawk, Poor-will, Mangrove, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoo, Smooth and Groove-billed Ani and Roadrunner. The location of the original recording is given. These are very useful tapes and hopefully more will be produced in the future. ed.

Natural Sciences in America -- Contributions to the History of American Ornithology and American Ornithological Bibliography -- anthologies by Arno Press, New York -- 376 p. and 638 p. -- 1974 -- \$19.00 and \$33.00.

These two books are part of a series of fifty-eight classics reprinted by Arno Press. They are intended primarily for libraries not able to obtain the originals or use them for general circulation if they have them due to their age. The price for the entire series is high -- \$1,800.00. The books were selected by an editorial board of four which included Ernst Mayr. They have done a good job selecting works of great scientific value.

The first volume reviewed here consists of four selections: *Ornithology of the U. S., Its Past and Present History* by S. P. Fowler, 1856, 8 p.; *Progress in American Ornithology* by Elliott Coues, 1971, 10 p.; *Fifty Years' Progress in American Ornithology*, Frank Chapman and T. S. Palmer, eds., 1933, 249 p., and *An Account of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, 1873-1919* by C. F. Batchelder, 1937, 109 p. These papers combine to provide a good background of the development of ornithology in America. The other volume contains the second and third parts of Elliott Coues' *American Ornithological Bibliography*. Part two covers the ornithology of Central and South America and part three includes material on specific families, genera and species.

Anyone seriously interested in this series should contact the publishers, a subsidiary of the New York Times Co., 330 Madison Ave., N. Y., N.Y. They will provide a full resume of the collection. ed.

Bird Migration -- Donald R. Griffin -- Dover Publications, Inc. -- 180 p., many maps and line drawings -- 1974 -- \$2.25 paperbound.

Dover has reprinted an up to date book on migration (1964) but one which was out of print. The author has added a new preface and updated the Further Reading section through 1973. The book covers the extent of bird migrations; birdwatching by radar and by airplane; seasonal timing and energetics of migrations; navigation and homing experiments. The treatment is concise and presents as good a coverage of the subject as is available. ed.

Iceland Summer - Adventures of a Bird Painter -- George M. Sutton -- University of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 253 p., 7 color plates, 16 black-and-white paintings, 8 photographs -- second printing -- 1974 -- \$8.95.

First published in 1961 this book is made available for a new generation of bird watchers with the addition of fine color plates of Sutton's work. Recipient of the 1962 John Burroughs medal for writing in the natural sciences it is a must for those who enjoy the bleak northern regions. Based on trip to Iceland with the Pettingills this is a highly personal account of a summer's quest for Icelandic birds. One project was to record the natal plumages of as many newborn chicks as possible, resulting in some charming shorebird portraits. Sutton was knighted by Iceland for his contribution to that country through this book. Any Sutton fan who did not acquire a copy of this book from the first printing will wish to remedy that situation soon. ed.

John James Audubon -- Alice Ford -- University of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 488 p., 49 black-and-white illustrations -- 1964 -- \$7.95.

The 1826 Journal of John James Audubon -- transcribed by Alice Ford -- University of Oklahoma Press, Norman -- 409 p., 37 black-and-white illustrations -- 1967 -- \$12.50.

Although these are not new books they were not previously reviewed and complete our Audubon biographical reviews. Audubon is probably the first nineteenth century naturalist most nature lovers learn of, but due to his secrecy about his birth and love of spinning up false tales much misinformation persists. Alice Ford's biography represents over ten years of research into previously inaccessible material.

The 1826 journal covers Audubon's trip to Europe to arrange the publication of *The Birds of America*. It is one of five existing Audubon journals and is presented in unabridged form. The illustrations depict some of Audubon's contemporaries and reproduce some of his sketches. It is a book for those who want a more "in-depth" view of the great artist-naturalist. ed.

The Dictionary of Birds in Color -- Bruce Campbell -- The Viking Press, New York -- 352 p., 1008 color photographs, 9 line drawings, one map -- 1974 -- \$22.50.

This book is primarily a collection of good, well reproduced color photographs of over ten percent of the species of the world's birds. The introduction covers birds evolution and adaption to their changing environment. The main text is alphabetical by genus and provides a capsule description of the birds illustrated and closely related species.

The photographs are the heart of the book. They vary in size from $3\frac{3}{8}$ " x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " to 7" x 10" and represent the work of some of the best nature photographers in the world. The reproduction of the photographs is excellent and if there is a fault it lies in using only the scientific name for the captions when space easily permits the common name also. The photographs are arranged in taxonomic order, an aid in their use. For a collection of photographs of a fine variety of birds this book is well worth the price. ed.

The Living World of Audubon -- Roland C. Clement -- Grosset and Dunlap, New York -- 272 p., 64 color reproductions of Audubon paintings, 196 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$25.00.

Here is a beautiful "cocktail table" book which has little to offer beyond some nicely reproduced photographs of 64 species of birds. The format consists of an Audubon reproduction of varying size and a brief text with references from Audubon's writing. This followed by two to five photographs of the species, usually including one or two nest pictures with a couple of sentences relating to their life history. The reproductions of Audubon prints and the photographs, the work of a good cross section of photographers, are of good quality and sharp detail. The book is a fine one for what it is, something to casually leaf through. If this is what one is looking for it is a good value. ed.

Birds of Western North America -- Lawrence C. Binford, paintings by Kenneth L. Carlson -- Macmillan Publishing Co., New York -- 223 p., 50 color plates -- 1974 -- \$25.00.

Macmillan introduces us to a bird artist of considerable talent, Kenneth L. Carlson. He has been exhibited in galleries and done covers for *Naturalist* and *Western Outdoors* but is certainly not known in birding circles. The quality of the color reproduction is not up to the standard of recent European books but is still good. The text provides some basic life history information on the species illustrated and an introduction presenting some basic facts on birding as a hobby. The book covers only nonpasserines so the door is open for a second volume. ed.

Glimpses of Bird Life -- Alexander Dawes Du Bois -- T. S. Denison & Co., Inc., Minneapolis -- 100 p., 32 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$5.95.

This is an interesting little book with a popular approach to life history studies. It contains chapters dealing with the American Bittern, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Common Nighthawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and American Goldfinch. The book is really a memorial to DuBois, a long time amateur ornithologist who died in 1966. ed.

Life at the Sea's Frontiers -- Richard Perry -- Taplinger Publishing Co., New York -- 301 p., many line drawings -- 1974 -- \$7.95.

This volume is the third in a series titled "The Many Worlds of Wildlife". The series describes the ecology of world-wide ecosystems by presenting chapter long examples cited from original research by well known scientists. This book deals with birds chiefly in the chapters on the Galapagos, mangroves, the Marismas, the Camargue, Flamingos and waders on northern mudflats. A selected bibliography is included. The book is readable and would be a good selection for public, college and high school libraries. ed.

Spirit of Survival - A Natural and Personal History of Terns -- John Hay -- E. P. Dutton & Co., New York -- 175 p., 14 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$7.95.

Here is not a reference book on terns but a well written and readable series of descriptions of their life history. It reflects on the grace and speed of terns' flight, their endurance and tenacity, the intricacy of their behavior and their instinct for survival. Many personal observations are interspersed and they serve to round out the text. ed.

The Countryman Bird Book -- edited by Bruce and Margaret Campbell -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 194 p., many photographs and line drawings -- 1974 -- \$10.50.

This is a British book, but it still contains some very interesting reading for all birders. *The Countryman* is a magazine containing short articles, notes, poems, drawings and photographs which record many peoples' observations. The con-

tributors are as varied as the subject matter, including amateurs and professionals alike. It provides some ideas of the type of observations which are useful to science. ed.

The Buzzard -- Colin R. Tubbs -- David and Charles, North Pomfret, Vt. -- 199 p., 17 photographs, 11 figures and 11 tables -- 1974 -- \$13.95.

Another British book, this one deals with their counterpart of our Red-tailed Hawk. It is a detailed natural history of this bird, the Common Buzzard, in Britain. Its main purpose is to record the size and reproductive success of the population and try to identify the factors controlling it. The British populations are compared with the continental populations. Since this bird is so much like the Red-tail the book is of more interest to Americans than one might guess. ed.

The Penguin: Its Life Cycle -- David H. Thompson -- Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York -- 64 p., 60 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$5.95.

Birds That Fly In The Night -- E. Bosiger and P. Faucher -- Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., New York -- 95 p., 100 black-and-white photographs -- 1974 -- \$3.95.

These childrens' books are written on about a seventh grade level and are very well illustrated. The penguin book tells how the birds are banded and use voice recognition to tell each other apart. It shows every phase of the penguin's seasons and life cycle, courtship, breeding and adaption to life on sea and land. The owl book deals with British birds so it is not as useful for U. S. schools. They are in the Sterling Nature Series which features good photographs. ed.

Emperor Penguin -- Jean-Claude Deguine -- Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, Vt. -- 30 p., 38 color photographs -- 1974 -- \$6.50.

This is another children's book about penguins. It differs from the one in the previous review chiefly in the reliance on the excellent color photographs to tell the story. The Emperor Penguin is the only penguin which nests during the severe Antarctic winter featuring temperatures as low as -70 degrees F. The photographs make the book of interest to adults and hopefully the high price will not prevent libraries from purchasing this fine volume. ed.

Spring Meeting in Dubuque

Due to the fact that all Dubuque colleges will be having graduation exercises the weekend of our Spring meeting May 10-11, 1975, we suggest that everyone get reservations unusually early.

Julien Motor Inn, 319-556-4200, 200 Main Dubuque 52001.

Single -- \$9.50, \$11.50, \$15.00.

Double -- \$12.50, \$15.50, \$22.50.

Twin -- \$12.50, \$22.50.

Regal "8" Motel, 319-556-0880 (New), 2700 Dodge St.

Single -- \$8.95.

Double -- \$10.95.

Other accommodations information coming later (March issue).

Pay Your Dues

It will be a big help to our Treasurer Ruth Buckles if you will pay your 1975 dues **now**. Her address is 5612 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50310. Upgrading your membership will help avoid a dues increase in 1975. ed.